

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2050

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 0813

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT YO

SUBJECT: JANUARY 25 MEETING OF LC CC

1. LCY PREPARING WITH FULL MEDIA COVERAGE FOR CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD FEB 25. MEETING IS FIRST FOR CC SINCE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS (THOUGH TECHNICALLY SECOND - BRIEF MEETING WAS HELD AT TIME OF CONGRESS TO ELECT CC ORGANS), AND WILL CONSIDER "IDEO-POLITICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL" CONSOLIDATION OF LC.

2. BORBA HAS RUN SERIES OF ARTICLES FEB 22-24 ON CC PRESIDUM ACTIVITY SINCE PARTY CONGRESS. THESE, AMONG OTHER TOPICS, HAVE NOTED FIRM DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE TO ATTEND BERLIN CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES. ON BASIS OF PREPARATORY WORK FOR CONGRESS, LC PRESIDUM WILL MAKE "TIMELY FINAL DECISION", REPORTED FEB 24 BORBA.

3. IN SAME SERIES FEB 23 BORBA AGAIN CRITICIZES DOMESTIC PRESS COVERAGE OF FOREIGN NEWS, SAYING THIS INDICATES "ESSENTIAL DISAGREEMENT WITH COURSE OF LCY". THIS DISAGREEMENT IS INDICATED IN "ONE-SIDED AND PETTY-BOURGEOIS" COVERAGE OF WESTERN COUNTRIES AND INADEQUATE COVERAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS "IN SIGNIFICANT PARTS OF THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN NONALIGNED COUNTRIES". (THIS CRITICISM APPEARS TO REFER

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PARTICULARLY TO POLITIKA FOREIGN COVERAGE.)

4. RUMORS ORIGINATING WITH SOVIET DIPLOMATS ARE CIRCULATING REGARDING FULL SCALE PURGE TO BE UNDERTAKEN AT CC MEETING. SPECIFIC NAMES MENTIONED ARE TODO KURTOVIC AND DUSAN POPOVIC. OUR FEELING IS THAT SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS ARE PROBABLY NOT TO BE EXPECTED FROM CC MEETING. AN INTERESTING ASPECT IS INVITATION TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS TO ATTEND SESSIONS (ALTHOUGH NEWSMEN HERE POINT WITH SOME CYNICISM TO SAME-DAY OPENING OF MIHAJLO MIHAJLOV TRIAL IN NOVI SAD AS MORE CREDIBLE INTERPRETATION OF INVITATION).
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